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European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites  
Organisation européenne pour l'exploitation de satellites météorologiques

Mr. Gregory Withee  
Assistant Administrator for Satellite and  
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Silver Springs, MD, 20910  
USA

**The Director-General**

Your reference  
Votre référence

Your letter dated  
Votre lettre du

Our reference  
Notre référence

Darmstadt

EUM/SIR/LET/03/0263

9 April 2003

**Subject: IGOS-P Implementation Task Force**

Dear Mr. Withee,

I am responding to your letter of the 18 March 2003 concerning the IGOS Implementation Task Force report.

At the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SIT in Geneva, and at the request of the Chairman of CEOS, the SIT considered the IGOS-P Implementation Task Force report. This report will be presented to the IGOS partners at their meeting in June 2003 for approval

As Chairman of SIT, and with the agreement of the Chairman of CEOS, the CEOS position is that the recommendations in the report are generally acceptable to CEOS with just one minor suggested modification to Recommendation 6.

CEOS proposes that the text of Recommendation 6 reads as follows:

"The report should address "measurable objectives" which could be applied, but always bearing in mind that the ultimate responsibility for the implementation of a Theme Team's recommendations rests with those governments and organisations which have committed support to it."

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In making this proposed modification, CEOS wishes to be quite clear that the responsibilities of its Members for their own satellite observations are not in any way diminished by the Recommendations of the Task Force. The objective of the clarification is to ensure that this point is recognised by IGOS partners rather than to any fundamental difficulty.

As a final point, the CEOS wishes to thank the people for their efforts in producing the Implementation Task Force

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tillmann', with a stylized initial 'T'.

Dr. Tillmann Mohr  
Director-General EUMETSAT and  
Chairman of SIT

cc CEOS Sec. and Mr. Don Hinsman